

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. On 23 November 1953, a meeting of the East German Democratic Bloc was held in the offices of the National Front in East Berlin. In the absence, on leave, of Otto Grotewohl, East German Minister President, and Otto Nuschke, who is ill, the meeting was presided over by Dr. Hans Loch.

2. The main purpose of the meeting was to hear Walter Ulbricht, acting Minister President, give an account of the statement to be made by the East German government to the Volkskammer on 25 November 1953. This was concerned with a speech on German unity which Ulbricht is to make.

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4. The second item on the agenda was the food situation in East German. Ulbricht described the potato situation as extremely serious owing to failures in harvesting and deliveries. He emphasized that this state of affairs could not continue, and that the VdgB would have to change its methods of work while the CDU and the BPD would have to intensify their efforts in this field.

5. The main speech on the food situation was made by Fritz Lange, the chairman of the East German Commission for State Control. He stated that visits to villages in the important agricultural areas had shown clearly that there existed a systematic campaign, organized by RIAS and supported by leaflets, to persuade farmers not to

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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keep to their legal delivery quotas. Very unsatisfactory deliveries from collective farms had been also noticed, and a stop had to be put to this. Mutual aid for farmers had to be organized as quickly as possible, aid which the VdgB had failed to give during the last month. It was necessary to find out which farmers had done their duty and which had not. The press would have to interest itself much more than hitherto in the question of deliveries. The Berliner Zeitung, for instance, only touched on the matter. It gave the delivery figures for the Soviet Union, but never the exact figures, only approximate ones. When the farmers saw these figures, they complained that too much was expected from them, and that farmers in the USSR were not required to fill such high quotas. The wheat deliveries should have been 100% complete by the end of October, but actually they were much less. For instance, the Schwerin district with the highest delivery figures, had only reached 73.2% of its quota; delivery of 56,000 tons was still awaited. 34,000 tons from Neubrandenburg, 57,000 tons from Potsdam, 36,000 tons from Frankfurt/Oder and 64,000 tons from Magdeburg had also not yet been delivered. There was a tendency to hold back on deliveries everywhere.

6. Johannes Dieckmann, chairman of the Volkskammer, told the meeting that the members of the Volkskammer would be immediately despatched to the country to attend to the question of delivery quotas, which were indeed in a precarious position, and to find out on the spot exactly what the situation was.

7. On the proposal of Dr. Hans Loch, a commission consisting of Johannes Dieckmann, Dr. Heinrich Toeplitz, Erich Mueckenberger, and a representative of the BPD, Seffrin, was directed to coordinate the investigations.

1. Comment. The following abbreviations are used in the above report 25X1

FDJ - Freie Deutsche Jugend - Free German Youth Organization
 CDU - Christliche Demokratische Union - Christian Democratic Union
 VdgB - Vereinigung der gegenseitigen Bauernhilfe - Farmers' Mutual Aid Association
 BPD - Bauern Partei Deutschlands - Farmers Party of Germany

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